

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~SEQ ID NO:2~~, or a complement thereof.
2. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof.
3. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 ~~SEQ ID NO:3~~, or a complement thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% ~~95%~~ nucleotide identity with at least 700 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site ~~T-box binding element~~ in DNA.
5. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% ~~95%~~ nucleotide identity with at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:3, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site ~~T-box binding element~~ in DNA.
6. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~The~~ nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 4~~, which has at least 90% ~~95%~~ nucleotide identity with SEQ ID NO:1 over its full length, and which

encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site.

7. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) An isolated ~~The~~ nucleic acid molecule of ~~claim 5~~, which has at least 90% ~~95%~~ nucleotide identity with SEQ ID NO:3 over its full length, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site.

8. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 5, 51, 52, and 58, ~~6, and 51.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 8, which is an expression vector.

10. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 9.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 10 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

13.-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 4, 5, 51, and 52 ~~4 or 5~~, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: induction of IFN- γ production in CD4+ cells, induction of Th1-associated cytokine production, and initiation of Th1 cell differentiation of Thp cells and Th2 cells.

51. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~ in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site ~~T-box binding element~~ in DNA.

52. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 ~~SEQ ID NO:3~~ in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a consensus T-box site ~~T-box binding element~~ in DNA.

53. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least ~~about~~ 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a consensus T-box site ~~T-box binding element~~ in DNA.

54. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims ~~claim 1, 5, 51, and 52 6, and 51~~, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

55. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of ~~comprising~~ a fragment of at least 700 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~ or a complement thereof.

56. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a fragment of at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, ~~SEQ ID NO:3~~, or a complement thereof.

57. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims ~~claim~~ 1, 5, 51, and 58 6, and 51, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.

58. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 700 nucleotides ~~bases~~ which is complementary to SEQ ID NO:1 ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~.

59. (Canceled)

60. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 57, wherein the detectable substance is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a prosthetic group, a fluorescent material, a luminescent material, and a radioactive material.

61. (New) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising a constitutive promotor.

62. (New) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising an inducible promotor.

63. (New) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.

64. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 50, wherein the Th1-associated cytokine is selected from the group consisting of IFN γ , IL-2, TNF, and Lymphotoxin.

65. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 4-7, wherein the identity is determined by the BLAST program using the default Blastn matrix.